

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 15943 212153Z

10/42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-07 MCT-01 SY-05 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2021

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15943

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A 2

E.O.#11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR WB GW

SUBJECT: PRESS ARTICLE ON US "PROTEST" AGAINST ACTION
OF FRG SECURITY OFFICIALS IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 1983; (B) BONN 13681 (ROGER CHANNEL)

1. USBER HAS SUMMARIZED IN PARA FOUR OF REF A AN
ARTICLE IN THE SEPTEMBER 21 ISSUE OF
FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (FAZ) CONCERNING
THE US "PROTEST" AGAINST THE ACTIONS OF FRG SECURITY
OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT CASE OF
THE EXPULSION OF A CZECH AGENT FROM BERLIN.

2. EMBASSY HAS PREPARED THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE FOR
RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES FROM THE PRESS ABOUT THE
ACCURACY OF THE FAZ STORY:

A. THE FAZ STORY CONTAINS SUBSTANTIAL IN-
ACCURACIES, BOTH AS TO THE CONTENT AND THE
PURPOSE OF THE AMERICAN POSITION.

B. BECAUSE THE ARTICLE CONCERNS A CONFIDENTIAL
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DISCUSSION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS, WE DO NOT
INTEND TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THE MATTER.

C. NOTHING THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES HAVE DONE
WOULD LIMIT THE ABILITY OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES
TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION FOR ASSURING THE SECURITY
OF BERLIN.

D. THE ESSENTIAL POINT IS THAT THE ALLIED
AUTHORITIES ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THEIR OWN RESPON-
SIBILITY FOR MATTERS OF SECURITY IN BERLIN AND OF THE
NEED FOR CLOSE CONSULTATIONS AND COOPERATION AMONG
AUTHORITIES OF THE ALLIED POWERS, THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT AND BERLIN.

3. IF ASKED WHETHER US DID IN FACT DELIVER A PROTEST
TO THE FRG, WE WILL STATE THAT THERE WERE DISCUSSIONS
BUT THAT, GIVEN THE CLOSE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE US AND THE FRG, IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO SPEAK OF
A "PROTEST."

4. THE FRG FONOFF HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL INQUIRIES ON THE
STORY. IN ADDITION TO CONFIRMING THE FACT THAT THERE
WAS AN AMERICAN APPROACH ON THE SUBJECT, FONOFF
IS USING POINTS A, B, AND C ABOVE AND ALSO THE SAME
GENERAL ANSWER AS THE EMBASSY TO THE QUESTION OF
WHETHER THE US APPROACH SHOULD BE DESCRIBED AS A
PROTEST.

5. FRG JUSTICE MINISTER VOGEL IS HAVING A PRESS
CONFERENCE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 22 TO DISCUSS THE
NEW FRG ANTI-TERRORISM LAW, WHICH TOOK EFFECT
SEPTEMBER 20. HE WILL LIKELY BE QUESTIONED
ABOUT BOTH FAZ STORIES SUMMARIZED IN REF (A). THE
FONOFF HAS PROMISED TO SEND ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS
COPIES OF THE SPEAKING NOTES BEING PREPARED FOR VOGEL
MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 22.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SECURITY, PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN15943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760364-0264, D760356-0901
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760939/aaaabgum.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USBERLIN 1983, 76 BONN 13681
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS ARTICLE ON US "PROTEST" AGAINST ACTION OF FRG SECURITY OFFICIALS IN BERLIN
TAGS: PFOR, WB, GE, US, CZ
To: STATE USBERLIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006